



Economic and Social Council

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Committee for Programme and Coordination

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Agenda item 9

**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its
forty-third session**

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry Kramer (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 9

Economic and social affairs

1. At its 13th meeting, on 18 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 9)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 9 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the work programme. The inclusion of follow-up activities to the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development was welcomed.
4. The view was expressed that the structure of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs appeared to be based on the proposals of the Secretary-General relating to the reform process as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/300.
5. The view was expressed that support of intergovernmental processes, particularly the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies was the key mandate of the Department and should be its



overwhelming focus. Noting that technical cooperation was the primary responsibility of funds and programmes and the relevant specialized agencies, the view was expressed that the support that the Department provides to technical cooperation (under sections 9 and 23) should be selective, maximize impact in areas within its mandate and be related and without detriment to its analytical responsibilities in support of the intergovernmental processes.

6. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, were broad and vague. The view was also expressed that indicator of achievement (g) (i) in table 9.12, under subprogramme 2, on the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol was not representative of the progress made by the international community in the area of advancement of women.

7. The view was expressed that the performance measures of indicator of achievement (c) in table 9.16 would more appropriately be classified as outputs as they would not measure the impact of increased awareness.

8. Views were expressed in support of the reforms called for by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session. It was considered that the work programme did not appear to incorporate the recommendations made by the Commission, hence there was a need to assess and address the means of implementation of such decisions. Views were expressed that the Secretariat should ensure that the themes of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development considered at its eleventh session were reflected in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005. The view was expressed that too much emphasis had been placed on partnership and strengthening of the Commission in table 9.16, whereas other elements of the achievements of the World Summit, such as, in particular, the commitments of Member States to implement the agreements on sustainable development, were not mentioned.

9. Appreciation was expressed for the focus of activities by subprogramme 4, Sustainable development, in implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the view was expressed that the Division for Sustainable Development should continue to focus on how it could best facilitate and catalyse the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, particularly through the mechanism of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Division could best do that by strengthening its role as a "process expert". Appreciation was expressed for the support provided by the subprogramme for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

10. Views were expressed that the proposed structure and resources for the new Financing for Development Office was inadequate. The Monterrey Consensus, a Member State-driven event, was the single most successful development conference outcome in United Nations history. It was further noted that the Conference on Financing for Development made a decision not to create a new commission to follow up the conference but to give the key role to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that because there has been no agreement on holding a major Beijing-plus-10 event (officially "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women), all non-mandated activities for the event be removed from the proposed programme budget.
12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly note with appreciation the efforts of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to implement reforms in terms of identifying activities to be discontinued.
13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly urge that the programme budget reflect the outcomes of the Commission on Sustainable Development in the specific subprogrammes.
14. The Committee recommended that all references to "Millennium Development Goals" be replaced with "internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992".
15. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the 2004-2005 biennium, subject to the modifications set out below.

Paragraph 9.3

In the first sentence, insert "and social" after the words "sustained economic".

Table 9.12

Under indicator of achievement (a) (iii), insert "with the assistance of the Secretariat" at the end of the text.

Under expected accomplishment (b), replace the words "developing countries and countries with economies in transition" with the words "all countries" after the words "that assist".

Under indicator of achievement (d) (iii), insert, after the words "gender balance", the words "taking into account the provisions of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations".

Under indicator of achievement (f), insert "with the assistance of the Secretariat" at the end of the text.

Table 9.16

Expected accomplishment (a) should read: "Effective implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development at all levels, including, inter alia, through partnership initiatives according to the modalities agreed upon at the Commission on Sustainable Development that support implementation of the commitments agreed at the World Summit".

In expected accomplishment (b), delete the words "in all activities of sustainable development".

Replace indicator of achievement (b) (i) with the following:

"Progress in the achievement of United Nations objectives and goals on sustainable and in particular those related to water, sanitation and human settlements, and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production".

Replace expected accomplishment (e) with the following:

"Enabling the Commission on Sustainable Development to effectively review and facilitate partnerships that support the implementation of Agenda 21, Rio+5 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation".

Replace indicator of achievement (e) with the following:

"Provision of information and summary reports on partnerships in a transparent, participatory and credible manner, according to the procedures which were agreed upon in the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session".

Insert in expected accomplishment (f) after the words "in particular" the words "North-South and".

Table 9.22

Insert a new expected accomplishment (f) to read:

"Improved access by Governments and international bodies to analytical tools, options and adequate methodologies regarding the linkages between political and economic issues and policies, such as economic sanctions, imposition of coercive economic measures, the relationship between disarmament and development and relevant aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction".

Insert a new indicator of achievement (f) and corresponding performance measures to read:

"Feedback from Member States on their access to analytical tools, options and adequate methodologies regarding the linkages between political and economic issues and policies

"Performance measures:

2000-2001: to be determined

Estimate 2002-2003: to be determined

Target 2004-2005: to be determined".

Table 9.30

In expected accomplishment (a), delete the word "multi-stakeholder".

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (e) with the following:

"Enhanced capacity of Governments, in particular that of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to participate actively in the financing for development process".

Add new expected accomplishment (f) to read:

"Fuller engagement of Governments to ensure proper follow-up to the implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the Conference and to continue to build bridges between development, finance and trade organizations and initiatives within the framework of the holistic agenda of the Conference".

Add new indicator of achievement (f) to read:

"Feedback from Member States on the contribution of the subprogramme to the fuller engagement of Governments in the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the Conference".

Add corresponding new *Performance measures*:

"2000-2001: not available

Estimate 2002-2003: to be determined

Target 2004-2005: to be determined".